

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 IO-14 /112 W

----- 034805

R 011250Z JAN 74

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3138

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 0127

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOCI, SF

SUBJ: JOHANNESBURG CITY COUNCIL MOVES TO END "PETTY" APARTHEID

1. MR. J.F. OBERHOLZER, CHAIRMAN OF JOHANNESBURG CITY COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND UNITED PARTY LEADER IN UP-DOMINATED COUNCIL DELIVERED MAJOR ADDRESS IN COUNCIL JANUARY 30 IN WHICH HE ANNOUNCED RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION INTO "PETTY" APARTHEID CARRIED OUT LAST YEAR BY SPECIALLY APPOINTED MULTIRACIAL COMMITTEE (ON WHICH NATIONALIST MEMBERS OF COUNCIL HAD REFUSED TO SERVE). UP MAJORITY THEN APPROVED COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS (OVER NATIONALIST OPPOSITION OBJECTIONS) WHICH, TO USE OBERHOLZER'S WORDS, URGED COUNCIL TO GO "AS FAR AS THE LAW AND, IN SOME INSTANCES PERSONAL REFERENCES, WILL ADMIT" IN EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE "PETTY" APARTHEID FROM JOHANNESBURG SCENE.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS CALLED FOR TAKING SOME LEGALLY PERMISSABLE STEPS IMMEDIATELY SUCH AS REMOVING APARTHEID SIGNS FROM PARK BENCHES AND OPENING PUBLIC LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS & ART GALLERIES TO ALL ON NON-DISCRIMINATORY BASIS. GOING BEYOND THIS, HOWEVER, THEY ALSO URGED MAKING PROMPT REPRESENTATIONS TO HIGHER AUTHORITIES IN EFFORTS

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TO GET RID OF OTHER ASPECTS OF "PETTY" APARTHEID SUCH AS SEPARATE

BUT UNEQUAL RESTAURANT AND ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES AND--MORE
BASIC--PROHIBITION ON BLACKS OWNING THEIR OWN HOMES IN URBAN AREAS
WHICH OBERHOLZER DESCRIBED AS "MOST HURTFUL DISCRIMINATING MEASURE
EVER CONCEIVED BY WHITE MEN."

3. WHILE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS HAVE HAILED RECOMMENDATIONS AND

COUNCIL'S DECISION TO IMPLEMENT THEM AS "HISTORIC" AND PRAISEWORTHY
"FIRST STEPS", DEPUTY MINISTER OF BANTU ADMINISTRATION JANSON
REPORTEDLY CHARACTERIZED THEM AS "EMOTIONAL" AND "IMPRACTICAL" AND
AS CONSTITUTING INTERFERENCE WITH HIS DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS TO WORK
THINGS OUT IN CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN "A CALM AND
DIGNIFIED MANNER." ON BASIC ISSUE OF HOME OWNERSHIP, RAND DAILY
MAIL QUOTED JANSON AS SAYING HE DID NOT KNOW HOW DEPRIVATION OF
THIS RIGHT COULD BE DESCRIBED AS "PETTY" APARTHEID AND THAT, IN
ANY CASE, "PAST EXPERIENCE HAS PROVED THAT HOME OWNERSHIP DOES NOT
NECESSARILY MAKE THESE PEOPLE HAPPY."
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